

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, ~~[[to]]~~ each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by ~~[[another]]~~ at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system, said information processing apparatus comprising:

management means for managing ~~[[the]]~~ information of the plurality of shared devices present in the network system managed by said information processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving, from another information processing apparatus, ~~[[the]]~~ information of the plurality of shared devices ~~connected to~~ used by the another other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of ~~resources in~~ the plurality of shared devices comprising an updated status and a connected condition;

~~transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device connected to said information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system;~~

recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated ~~[[in]]~~ regarding its resources status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means; ~~[[and]]~~

renewal means for ~~changing~~ updating the information on ~~[[a]]~~ the status or a connected condition of the shared device ~~displayed on a display of said information processing apparatus used by the other information processing apparatus~~ in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, ~~wherein said renewal means changes the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices;~~ and

display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means.

Claim 2. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in ~~[[said]]~~ the group.

Claim 3. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control

means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared ~~device of~~ devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at ~~[[the]]~~ a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared ~~[[device]]~~ devices present ~~[[in]]~~ on the network system.

Claims 5 and 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared ~~device of~~ devices managed by the other information processing apparatus ~~in said management means~~.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, ~~including a first information processing apparatus;~~

[[to]] each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by
[[another]] at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system,
[[the]] said method comprising:

a management step, of managing [[the]] information of the plurality of
shared devices present in the network system ~~by management means~~ managed by the
information processing apparatus;

a reception step, of receiving, from another information processing
apparatus, [[the]] information of the plurality of shared devices ~~connected to another~~ used
by the other information processing apparatus, the received information including
information of ~~resources in~~ the plurality of shared devices including an updated status and
a connected condition;

~~a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device~~
~~connected to a first information processing apparatus to another information processing~~
~~apparatus on the network system~~;

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of shared
devices has been updated [[in]] regarding its resources status, in accordance with the
information received in said reception step; [[and]]

a renewal step, of ~~changing~~ updating the information on [[a]] the status of a
connected condition of the shared device ~~displayed on a display of the first information~~
~~processing apparatus~~ used by the other information processing apparatus in accordance
with a recognition result made in said recognition step, ~~wherein said renewal step includes~~
~~changing the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device~~

~~that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices; and~~

a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated in said renewal step and the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus in said management step on a same screen of the display means.

Claim 10. (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception ~~[[means]]~~ step includes ~~performing processing that includes~~ a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 11. (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared ~~device of~~ devices managed by the ~~another other~~ information processing apparatus.

Claim 12. (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step ~~is adapted~~ includes, at ~~[[the]]~~ a log-on operation to the network system, ~~[[to]]~~ automatically ~~receive~~ receiving the information of the plurality of shared ~~[[device]]~~ devices present ~~[[in]]~~ on the network system.

Claims 13 and 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step ~~is adapted~~ includes, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, ~~to invalidate~~ invalidating the information of the shared ~~device of~~ devices managed by the other information processing apparatus ~~in the management means~~.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, ~~including a first information processing apparatus, to~~ each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by ~~[[another]]~~ at least one other information processing apparatus through the network system, said information processing program comprising:

code for a management step, of managing ~~[[the]]~~ information of the plurality of shared devices present in the network system, ~~using management means managed by the information processing apparatus;~~

code for a reception step, of receiving, from another information processing apparatus, ~~[[the]]~~ information of the plurality of shared devices ~~connected to another used~~

by the other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of ~~resources~~ in the plurality of shared devices including an updated status and a connected condition;

~~a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system;~~

code for a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated ~~[[in]]~~ regarding its resources status, in accordance with the information received ~~[[in]]~~ by said code for the reception step; ~~[[and]]~~

code for a renewal step, of ~~changing~~ updating the information on ~~[[a]]~~ the status or a connected condition of the shared device ~~displayed on a display of the first information processing apparatus~~ used by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made ~~[[in]]~~ by said code for the recognition step; ~~wherein said renewal step includes changing the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices; and~~

code for a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status or connected condition of the shared device updated by said code for the renewal step and the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by said code for the management step on a same screen of the display means.

Claim 18. (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group.

Claim 19. (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared ~~device of~~ devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20. (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step ~~is adapted~~ includes, at ~~[[the]]~~ a log-on operation to the network system, ~~[[to]]~~ code for automatically ~~receive~~ receiving the information of the plurality of shared ~~[[device]]~~ devices present in the network system.

Claims 21 and 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the renewal step ~~is adapted~~ includes, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system,

~~to invalidate~~ code for invalidating the information of the shared device of devices managed
by the other information processing apparatus in the management means.

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and managing a plurality of shared devices, said apparatus comprising:

management means for managing information of a plurality of shared devices managed by said information processing apparatus;

obtaining means for obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus;

recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been updated [[in]] regarding its resources status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a

connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by said information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means. ~~information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices.~~

Claim 26. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said display means displays ~~the change in statuses of the resources of the plurality of devices~~ on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 27. (currently amended): An information processing method of an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and for managing a plurality of shared devices, said method comprising:

a management step, of managing information of a plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus;

an obtaining step, of obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus;

a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been updated [[in]] regarding

its ~~resources~~ status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by the other processing apparatus, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed in said management step ~~in accordance with a recognition result made in said recognition step, information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices.~~

Claim 28. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, in which said display step includes displaying ~~the change in statuses of the resources of the plurality of devices~~ on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 29. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and for managing a plurality of shared devices, said program comprising ~~code for performing a method comprising:~~

code for a management step, of managing information of a plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or a connected condition of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing which one of the plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus has been updated [[in]] regarding its resources status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained [[in]] by said code for the obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of a plurality of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made [[in]] by said code for the recognition step, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by the information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said code for the management step information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices.

Claim 30. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 29, in which said display step includes displaying ~~the change in statuses of the~~

~~resources of the plurality of devices~~ information on the status or the connected condition by
icon changes.